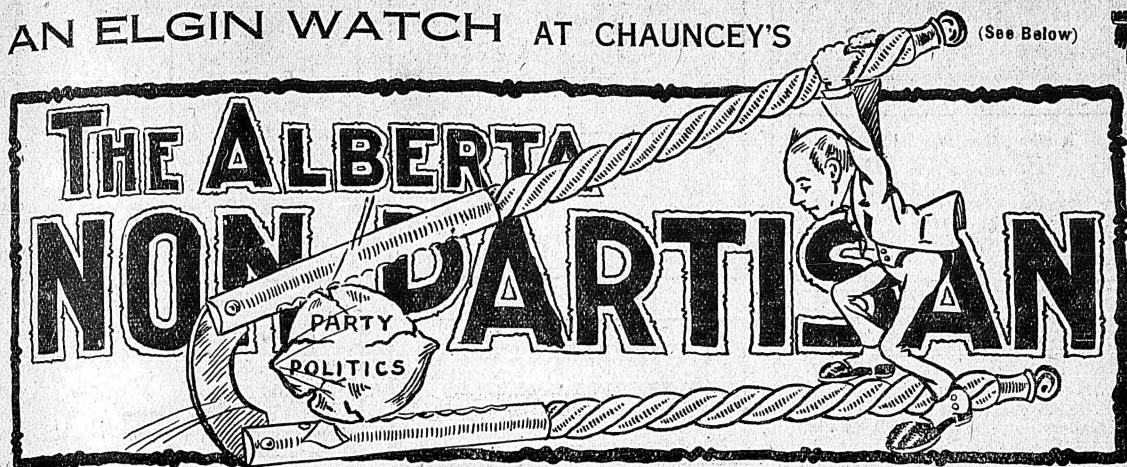


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When every youth
Shall seek, not wealth and fame,
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Righteousness shall be bold
In that fair age of gold.

The golden age will come
When men shall work for joy,
When each shall find employ
Suited to each;
When toil shall teach,
Not bring the soul disgust;
Men will not hear, "Thou must!"
Labour will not be sold,
In that bright age of gold.

The golden age on earth
Will be a time of peace;
The wars of greed shall cease;
Envy shall fail,
Mercy prevail;
Creeds shall not separate;
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Love shall all hearts enfold
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—JACK LONDON.

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CURRENT HISTORY

"STEPS TOWARD PEACE"

Premier Lloyd George's declaration of the Allied war aims is a clear and concise statement, couched in language easily understood by the average reader.

This is a great step forward, as some of his previous speeches on tentative peace terms were vague, and left too much to the individual imagination in the matter of definition of terms.

Some of his statements, however, are still open to misconstruction, as for instance the following: "Reconsideration of the great wrong done to the French in 1871, when Alsace-Lorraine was taken from them." This may be interpreted as meaning that Alsace-Lorraine is to revert to France, or it may indicate a desire to settle the vexed question by a plebiscite of the inhabitants of that district. President Wilson's latest pronouncement in this regard "Reparation for the taking of Alsace-Lorraine," is also somewhat indefinite. If Alsace-Lorraine is to go back to France "willy-nilly," is this not admitting a dangerous precedent? Why stop at 1871? Why not go back a little further and restore other territories forcibly annexed by European powers just prior to that date?

Then, again, "Justice to the men of Roumanian blood and speech in their legitimate aspirations" is open to a wide range of applications. What, for instance, constitutes "legitimate aspirations" of a people? Would the demand of the Irish for self-government be considered a "legitimate aspiration" in this light, and would the agitation of French Canadians for independence of Quebec be deemed "legitimate" in any sense of the word?

Although no formal repudiation of the secret treaties enacted by the Allies since the outbreak of war is made by Lloyd George, yet it is evident from the tenor of his peace demands that they have been quietly and unostentatiously relegated to the limbo of forgotten things. This impression is almost confirmed by President Wilson's supplementary statement requiring "Open covenants of peace without private international understandings."

It is interesting to note also that apparently President Wilson has receded from his former position when he attempted in his now famous "Make the world safe for democracy" speech, to dictate to the German people what form of government they should have. This is not now made an issue in his re-statement of war aims, but is left to the sagacity and intelligence of the people concerned.

President Wilson's emphatic statement calling for the "removal of all economic barriers and establishments of equality of trade conditions among nations consenting to peace and associating themselves for its maintenance" will be universally welcomed, as it leaves no room for doubt as to his attitude on the "War after the war" proposals.

On the whole, the general trend of the latest peace proposals reveals a much more tolerant spirit, and shows a strong desire on the part of the Allies for a peace based on considerations of justice to all concerned. It is perhaps regrettable that some definite acknowledgement of the Russian Bolsheviks by the Allies was not forthcoming at this time, but subsequent events would indicate that official recognition of the Russian revolutionary representatives will not be long delayed.

The effect on the German people of the recent pronouncements of the spokesmen

of the Allies, can hardly be estimated yet, but reports filtering through, if they are authentic, seem to reveal a growing tendency in some quarters, to compare the Allied terms in a favorable light with the avowed war aims of the Junker element in Germany. It is not to be considered that the peace terms outlined by Lloyd George and President Wilson are final in any sense of the word. They simply form a basis for negotiations, and, no doubt, would be altered in many points by a peace conference. The general principles, however, laid down, are such as would be acceptable to the democratic elements of the different nations involved providing, of course, that the interpretation of those principles is not left to the diplomats of the various governments.

A struggle seems to be waging in Germany at present between the Socialists and Radicals on one side and the Prussian Junkers on the other, and the outcome of this will determine what the attitude of the German government will be towards the Allied peace overtures. At the time of writing, it would appear that the Imperialistic faction has the upper hand, but many forces, such as the Bolshevik propaganda in the German army, are working underneath the surface to undermine the strength of the militaristic party.

The eyes of the world are turned on the Central Powers, as the next few days will undoubtedly bring forth from them a repudiation, or a tacit acceptance of the proposals laid down as a basis for negotiations.

Meanwhile, no efforts should be spared by the Allies to strengthen the hands of the German people in their struggle against the autocratic forces. Our press can do much to foster a better understanding between the democracies of the warring nations. It has unfortunately been the policy of a certain section of the press in the past to publish statements which tended to fortify the position of the militarists in Germany, and make a reconciliation of the peoples almost impossible. Utterances of such newspapers of the London "Daily Mail" have done more to line up the German people behind their government than almost any other factor.

However, time, the great healer, has eliminated a great deal of this bitterness and a better spirit is manifesting itself. The first prejudiced outbursts against the Bolsheviks have gradually given way to a more calm and reasonable attitude. The statements and conduct of the Bolshevik representatives during the peace negotiations with the Central Powers have done much to influence public opinion in their favor, and no one can doubt that the revolutionary party in Russia, no matter what their limitations have at least got that international outlook which will be the strongest factor in maintaining a universal peace.

* * *

BRITAIN'S NATIONAL DEBT

* * *

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PEERLESS LOGIC

All the stock arguments and some brand new ones were launched against the new franchise bill in the House of Lords recently.

An amendment which sought to exclude women from the suffrage was defeated but the debate disclosed the fact that some of our Peers are still being governed by moral and intellectual conceptions reminiscent of prehistoric times.

One argument advanced against the bill by Lord Curzon was that wherever women had been granted the vote a stimulus had always been given to Socialism! It is generally admitted that Socialists as a rule are people who have at least taken the trouble to inform themselves on economic and social problems, so that from a reactionary point of view it would be dangerous to entrust women with the franchise, assuming of course that the majority of them are inclined to Socialism, which is a debatable point. To be thoroughly logical the sponsors of this argument would favor disfranchising several million male voters who are avowed socialists, but then logic is seldom if ever attributed to members of the House of Lords.

Somewhat weird is the argument from another Lord that the present House of Commons, which had been extended beyond its natural life, had no mandate to decide such a momentous question. The present Government is good enough to manage and direct such trifles as a European war and the industrial reorganization which this involves, but when it comes to granting women the vote—perish the thought!

The only consoling thought about the British House of Lords is that they are slowly but surely talking themselves out of existence. They have no function to serve in an age where human welfare is the ultimate test of all social and political reforms, and where considerations of the future rather than traditions of the past grant the moral sanctions.

* * *

WHY BOLSHEVIKI POWER GROWS

Commenting on Russia's famine and desire for peace, "Common Sense," edited by F. W. Hearst, late Editor of the "Economist," says:—

"If millions of people are on short rations and babies are dying daily by the thousand for want of milk and nutriment, surely anyone but an absolute shallow politician or a diplomatic mandarin should understand not only that the Bolsheviki power was growing, but also why it was growing. The same reason will make it grow in other countries than Russia also."

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"There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings."—Ruskin.

THE The United Farmers of U.F.A. Alberta are holding their Annual Convention in Calgary. This event is looked forward to with great interest, not only by our Province, but by the sensitive politicians of the Dominion Government. As it happens unusual interests centres on the U.F.A. Convention this year. In view of the recent Union Government success, many people are wondering if the convention will be as free and outspoken in its criticism, and as urgent in its demands for reform as it has previously been.

The U.F.A. Movement is one of the most efficient and hopeful organizations in Canada. Being forced to co-operative effort some years ago, by the pressure of economic conditions, the farmers—the last great group of workers to unite—were organized for self-protection against the soulless exploiters of Canadian industry. During its comparatively short history, the U.F.A. has been the most influential organization in the Province of Alberta. Legislatures cannot longer afford to ignore its demands, and politicians hang upon its utterances.

The most obvious benefit imparted by this organization is that of Education. It has aroused the farmer from his dream of independence to realize that he and his industry are inter-related to all industries and all classes of the State; that Railways, Tariffs, Land Monopoly, and Exploitation generally does not escape the farmer, but that, on the contrary, the farmer stands at the base of our social structure along with his other fellow-workers, and bears the burdens im-

posed by an economic system which is manifestly unjust.

This knowledge came to the farmer without that feeling of bitterness so common in industrial organization. The U.F.A. has the distinguished honor that it has never smothered itself in narrow class bigotry. Its voice has been raised in the interests of the **People**, knowing as it does that in a socialized world the well-being and prosperity of one group of workers depends upon, and is conditioned by the circumstances of all other groups. Thus the struggles of the United Farmers against the political and economic evils of our time are being observed with interest, for their victory means a victory for democracy and justice.

The policy of the farmers has so far been to remain outside the sphere of politics in any direct sense, entrusting its political achievements to its indirect influence. This is the weak spot in the organization. While its influence is strong, yet politicians and governments alike play with it. Parties cater for the vote, but please themselves later as to legislation. To change from one party to the other does not help, for neither party can give the justice demanded by the U.F.A., Grit and Tory alike being owned by the exploiters whom the farmers united to fight. Not only so, but when the monied interests are endangered, both parties will unite to defend them as was done at the last election.

It is well, however, for the U.F.A. to work out its own salvation in this regard. It is not the first union to attempt the purification of the old parties from within, but sooner or later this idea will vanish and the farmers will see that they have been entertaining devils unawares. The problem of Canada is the distribution of the products of human toil. Those who now are in control of our store-houses will not relinquish their privilege through indirect influence, they must be ousted by direct political action, and if the U.F.A. does not see its way clear to undertake this task it must be done by another organization, and the United Farmers will miss one great opportunity for service which it might accomplish with comparative ease.

* * *

THE Wherever we find
BOLSHEVIKI extreme autocracy
GOVERNMENT and oppression we find extreme radicalism and revolt. The Bolsheviki element in Russia constitutes a reflex of the intolerable conditions in that country, and we are delighted that the reins of government is in the hands of the oppressed, at last. But

there is grave doubt as to the ability of this party to retain power, for the simple reason that it will try to do in a night the whole work of an age. No government can go far ahead if its people and survive. Impetuosity backed by a strong desire to right the long suffered wrongs of Russia as speedily as possible may lead to another counter revolution.

Such would be regrettable and our trust is that it may not be so. If for no other reason, we are anxious to see how far the socialistic ideals can be made practicable. It is not likely that the government of Russia, if sustained will, in twenty years from now, be as democratic as that of Canada. The field of practical politics will furnish the test of both theorists and theories, and it will be demonstrated again that political economy has a close connection with human material, and that not even the Bolsheviki's dreams will be able to go beyond the limit of the masses of the Russian people.

* * *

UNION GOVERNMENT AND RAILROADS

To have a Union Government, backed by a large majority was indispensable to profiting seeking railroads. No Party Government would have dared to increase the profits of corporations at this time. With Government Control of Railways in Great Britain and in the United States, and with high profits and inefficiency in Canada, neither of the old parties would have taken the risk implied in allowing increased charges at this time. It remained for a Union Government to perform this great feat for democracy.

It is estimated that the increase granted by the Railway Commission, and permitted by the Union Government will mean an additional 25 million annually to the C.P.R. There is no excuse for this enormous profit at this time. Such an amount would render our charity fund for soldiers' wives needless, hence it is a crime against the Canadian people to permit the increase.

This is one of the first steps taken by the Union Government to "win the war," and its effects on the Western front will be watched with interest by soldiers and their dependents.

This and similar deals that are likely to follow will very soon prove the Union Government. Either it is a corporation government or truly Non-Partisan. If the latter it will take over the C.P.R., with all its land, and run it for the service of the state. We confess to having little hope of such a consummation, and are prepared for a real plutocratic showdown.

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOR

The Annual Convention of the Alberta Federation of Labor held in

Lethbridge was by far the most important and the most successful ever held in Alberta. The convention was epoch making not only because women delegates were present for the first time, but because it was decided to launch a Political Labor Party. The change made in the constitution will admit representation from women's auxiliaries which will result in each succeeding year seeing more and more women delegates taking part in discussion of those important social and economic problems which trades unions alone can best discuss with them.

The debate on the formation of a Labor Party was interesting. All present recognized the difficulties of forming a homogenous party out of a trades union movement that is largely dominated by its American affiliations and which derides any effort to supplement its industrial activities by political action. But a Labor Party is the logical and natural outcome of the efforts of trades unions to secure legislation. The precedent established in Britain and in Europe can safely be followed by Canadian trades unionists. No one to-day can think of politics in Britain without the true reforming impulse of its Labor Party.

The Labor Party in Britain may not be as potent or as revolutionary a force as some would wish it to be, but it has fought the forces of monopoly and privilege, and stood for the emancipation of labor and for social justice. The experience gained in the past will be invaluable in dealing with the future. Complete organization of the progressive forces in Britain is now being effected so that a party will emerge that will prove capable of guiding the destiny of the nation.

For this reason a similar effort should be welcomed in Canada. Labor is more or less united in the industrial field, but absolutely disunited in the political field. Experience and education alone in actual politics will help to remedy such a vital defect.

The Federation will ask for much important labor legislation. Many amendments to existing legislation are necessary and also a Department of Labor is required in the Province for centralizing the administration of that legislation directly affecting labor.

After-the-war problems are being studied and the Federal Government will be petitioned to establish an Industrial Commission to report on the best system of vocational training for returned soldiers, and how best to

provide for re-habilitating the soldier in civil life after the war.

Next year's convention will be held in Medicine Hat.

* * *

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

The "inexorable law of supply and demand" so often quoted by certain schools of political economists, has been treated with great disrespect by the moloch of war. In New York last week the demand for coal was great, but the supply was only indifferent. Coal riots broke out on the East Side, where several hundred men, women and children, unable to obtain coal, forced their way into coal yards and without ceremony cleaned them out before the guardians of law and order could be summoned.

It is not only foolish but criminal to leave the fuel supply of a great city like New York to the tender mercies of private interests. It is a haphazard and inefficient method, and in this instance has caused great hardship to thousands of the poorer class who were unable to get fuel during the recent cold snap. When it comes to a matter of life and death necessity truly knows no law, and in this instance the people acted with promptitude and courage.

Hasten the day when such public necessities as coal yards will be owned by the people and operated for the service of the community. Then indeed we may hope to have the supply adequate to the demand because human welfare rather than individual profit will be the primary consideration in the administration of public utilities.

* * *

LABOR AND THE NEW SOCIAL ORDER

The British Labor Party has prepared for submission at the Party Conference, to take place next June, a draft report which goes very far towards a reconstructed society based on principles of justice and democracy. "What has to be constructed after the war is not this or that Government department or social machinery, but society itself," declares this report.

Universal enforcement of a national minimum wage, democratic control of industry, a revolution in national finance and the surplus wealth for the common good—these are the four chief demands of the Labor reconstruction policy after the war. This is the first sign of a real awakening of the British working class to the opportunities provided by the war for the abolition of industrial conditions which impose on millions of workers a life of hard toil always bordering very close to the mere subsistence level. It shows that the

mass of the people are beginning to do their own thinking and when this stage has been reached no power on earth can stop the onward march of progress towards a just economic basis of society. Pointing out that none of the political parties has yet ventured any plans for dealing with the demobilization of the millions of soldiers, the Labor Party affirms that "the people will be extremely foolish if they do ever allow indispensable industries to slip back into the unfettered control of private capitalists with minds bent not on the service of the community, but by the very law of their being, only on the utmost possible profiteering."

Protective tariffs are condemned wholeheartedly in this report, and the Government is urged to undertake all kinds of public works, including millions of new cottages for the rehousing of the population. The great necessity for this latter reform will be understood by those who have lived in any of the large cities in England or Scotland, where the majority of the working class are forced by economic conditions to live in tenement blocks. Without doubt the insanitary condition of those tenement houses—mere hovels most of them—constitute a very grave menace both to the physical health and the moral and intellectual development of the individual.

In no uncertain language this report repudiates the idea of an economic war and protests strongly against any increase of territory to any nation through annexation. It is encouraging to find so strong a declaration in regard to the proposed economic boycott of the Central Powers, as this undoubtedly is the most insidious means of sowing the seeds of future wars.

President Wilson's universal league of nations is heartily endorsed and an international legislature is proposed to enact such common laws as can be mutually agreed upon. The removal of all war-time restrictions on freedom of speech and publication is also demanded.

The Labor Party is to be congratulated on its clearness of vision, international spirit, and its determination to obtain for the workers the fruits of that justice and democracy for which so many thousands have laid down their lives. This party containing as it does some of the cleverest students of economics, men of social vision and intellectual attainments, is destined to play a great part in the economic reorganization which is imminent, and which is being demanded by the working classes of all countries, as the next step in social development.

The Non-Partisan Movement

NON-PARTISAN JOTTINGS

By "Hec"

With the announcement that the first important action of the Union Government after the election is to give the railroads rate increases which will total from 20 to 25 million dollars annually, many farmers who voted the union ticket are now beginning to realize that they have been "fooled again!" * * *

Figuratively speaking, hundreds of farmers are kicking themselves for having voted for a party in control of profiteering patriots, and are now doing the logical thing under the circumstances,—joining with alacrity the Non-Partisan League and helping in the fight to place the producers of wealth in control of Canada for a change. * * *

Of course, the poor old C.P.R. needs an increase in passenger and freight rates. Listen here—the last C.P.R. earnings report to hand reads thusly:—"Montreal, Nov. 28—C.P.R. earnings for month of October, 1917: Earnings \$14,733,774.02; Expenses \$9,679,072.25; Nett Profit \$5,054,701.77." There you are, that's letting you have it! Only Five Million Dollars' Profit a month! Just think of it and then remember you voted for —!! * * *

But the worst is—the great mass of the people, the farmers in the country, the workers and toilers in the towns and cities, will have to pay the greatest proportion of the 20 to 25 million rate increase, for they are the greatest consumers, and the consumers always pay the freight finally. * * *

Now, why was the Government foxy enough not to give the railroads their rate increase before election? Ah! there's the rub! It was not exactly the kind of promise that gets your votes. And now, well, what's the use, doesn't it get your goat! * * *

Protests galore will be made, but of what avail? What miracle can now actually prevent the C.P.R. et al from this additional pilfering annually from the pockets of the people of Canada. The Party Politicians are past-masters in the gentle art of fooling the people, and it won't take R.B.B. and other Union lawyers long to trot out some pious explanation as to "the needs of the hour." Oratory, always oratory. A remedy often tried and found wanting. * * *

Why is the Government so tender with the profiteers? Is it not supposed to control the destinies of a nation? Can it control the industries of a nation? Complete control, not partial control? Can it be after three years of huge war profits that the most ill-informed can fail to realize the necessity of taking drastic measures to cope with the situation. It surely doesn't need a "Wilson" to see that? * * *

What these nationless cosmopolitan traders are after is to do what they like with the people. Are not "our boys" fighting to make the world "safe for democracy"? Does democracy consist, then, in permitting the capitalists to exploit the country in "their own" sweet way, or does it consist in an organization of all

the necessary industries and resources in accordance with the needs of the people? Where is the democracy in allowing profiteering plutocrats to do as they wish with the country? * * *

Protest! Yes, protest good and hard! Protest until you're hoarse and black in the face. Holler your head off! And then only get laughed at for your pains.—The only effective protest is by joining the Non-Partisan League, the political organization controlled by the producers, not by the exploiters, as is the case with the old parties. * * *

Line up right on election days. Get to the poll and register your kick! Take your neighbor along with you, and don't let the red herrings switch you. A vote against the profiteer's political parties on election day is worth a hundred resolutions and telegrams of protest against increased freight rates, etc., after election day. * * *

They are in power, "by hook or by crook," for another five years, and in the meantime —! "For the love of Mike" hurry up! Wake up! Get wise! Don't be fooled so easy again. Get together. Join the Non-Partisan League. * * *

THE MOST OBVIOUS REFORM!

Calgary, Jan. 13, 1918.

Dear Editor:—

As we are living in a time of reform, it's obvious that the most needed reform is in the political parties of our country, which should be done away with, for it is a disgrace to any so-called free country, the way in which the election campaigns are carried on at present. For instance, the first thing the various parties do at election time is to call their most fluent speakers to go from one end of the country to the other to stump for their party candidate, and cause ill feelings which often result in riots and injury to persons, and damage to property; all this at a great expense to the people.

This could be done away with, by demanding that candidates must win their spurs by their own merits. For instance, by the present system two candidates are running in the same riding; one an honest straightforward man, who has the best interests of his riding and country at heart, and would run on his own merits; but the parties proposing him would send one or more of their best speakers to the salvation of their party weakling, and with their polished words would swing the election in favor of the candidate who could not win his own battles. What, may I ask, can you expect him to do in Parliament?

I will leave the reader to see the other side and form his own opinion.

D. J. A. MacCAULEY,
1013 17th Ave. N.W., City.

FOOD CONTROL

At the butter market, Preston, Lancashire, England, between 2,000 and 3,000 housewives assembled and were marshalled into a long queue by the police at 6 a.m., three hours before the market opened. At 9 a.m. butter was distributed in single pounds, but the supply was exhausted in less than two hours and a large number went home unsatisfied.

ALLEN

THEATRE

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GERALDINE FARRAR

—In—

"The Devil Stone"

3 Days, Starting

WEDNESDAY

PARENTAGE

A
Message

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NON-PARTISAN POLITICS

THE LEAGUE'S OPPORTUNITY

The Non-Partisan League came into existence as the direct expression of a spirit of revolt against injustice. The large financial interests had so entrenched themselves in Canadian affairs as to not only control the whole arterial system of our commercial and industrial life, but also to dictate the policy of government over the heads of the people. This was managed by keeping the people divided against themselves: they were taught to vote Tory or Grit without regard for the fact that both these parties were controlled by the wealthy class.

After many generations of this ignorance, and when the party strife had reached the highest peak of absurdity a few of the people were awakened to a true sense of the situation. They rightly saw that the distribution of the products of toil, and the retaining of public lands and other natural resources were the real political aims, but that as long as two parties, having the same end in view divided the people, the securing control of the fundamental resources of national life was impossible.

A League was therefore formed which would undertake an extensive educational and organization programme. The object being to destroy the party fetish, to obtain a business government, and to secure possession of public utilities under a business government. These principles are democratic and make toward justice, hence will continue to appeal to fair-minded people.

The Non-Partisan League of Alberta had to pass through all the trials of a new organization. It was misrepresented and mistrusted until the fruits of its labors began to be apparent. With its foundations laid deep in the best interests of the people, with representatives in Parliament to advocate its cause, and having now received the confidence of the people, the League is heading straight toward the greatest opportunity for service that ever presented itself to any organization.

The Political situation at the present moment is particularly favorable. The Union Government although a plutocratic organization has levelled the old party fortifications to an amazing degree. This means that much of the drudgery of the League has been accomplished. Scarcely a year ago the leaders of the Union Government were denouncing any attempt to get away from partyism. We had to fight against their statements and contentions, clothed as they were with authority. But to-day things are different. Partyism in its rottenness has fallen to pieces in the hands of its constructors, and they were forced to take over the Non-Partisan idea. So the way has been cleared for the advance of the League. We now do not have to fight against the party spirit, we will marshal our forces for the attainment of our fundamental economic reforms. We continue the fight under the most favorable conditions and shall not cease until Canada has a business government that will be creditable, and an economic justice worthy of our age.

CANDIDATE FOR BOW RIVER WRITES ON THE LEAGUE

The Need Of The Future

In Bow River Riding 1447 persons voted Non-Partisan and yet in all that number I do not suppose there is one single voter who regrets the stand he took, or feels that his vote was lost. In twelve months 1447 persons have broken away from the old line parties to join this new movement for purer democracy and cleaner politics. Well may the supporters of such a movement feel highly encouraged.

To the outsider, the person who has taken little or no interest in state affairs, not even in party politics, the fact that we were unable to elect any one of the three Non-P. candidates to represent our interests in the Dominion Parliament, makes them feel that we have failed and makes them wonder if we will turn back.

The story is told in "The Mintage" of a family traveling by prairie schooner to the new West. In a road accident the father was killed. Blinded by grief, the mother turned to her six children and said, "We must go back—we must go back to Illinois. It is the only thing to do." The eldest, a boy of fifteen, sad but thoughtful, answered: "Mother, listen to what I say: we will go on—we will go on. We know where father was going to take us—we know what he was going to do. We will go on and we will do what he intended to do, and if possible we will do it better. WE WILL GO ON!"

The Non-Partisan League started out to uphold and support the great and noble principles of honesty and democracy. We must expect disappointments along the way. Some upon whom we depend will be taken from us. Others on whom we place confidence will prove deserters, but WE must go on. WE MUST GO ON. We fail just to the extent that we turn back or desert. WE SUCCEED just to the extent that we uphold or support the great and noble principles of honesty and democracy. WE must go on until the fight is won.

To-day there is an appalling lack of interest in public affairs and the community spirit is dead. At many points not one half of the total votes are cast, and those cast, in rural parts particularly, go 50-50. This would indicate that the people do not care what they get, do not know what they want, or are woefully ignorant as to their own best interests. It is true one will hear many heated discussions on public affairs, but as a rule there is much more heat than light. For three elections we have seen the country carried by the same master politician appealing to the sentiment of the people. "The old Chief—Let him finish his work." "The dividing of the ways—Canada for Canadians." "Win the War—Which way would the Kaiser vote?"

Choosing a representative to go to Parliament and vote as you would vote on the scores of questions that come up during his tenure of office is not a matter of sentiment. Neither is it fair play or justice that the electorate should be stampeded by some hysterical cry at the last moment, regarding one question, when there are many other questions as worthy of consideration.

An election is a mere passing incident in the life history of our organization. The League can do very effective work without placing a candidate in the field, or taking any official action in a political

campaign. The greatest need to-day is an awakening of the common people to their responsibilities as individuals. Just because there are so many of us common people, we get into the way of thinking of ourselves as crowds rather than as individuals. But honesty and that big word democracy (which is usually applied to a whole nation) refer specifically to the individual. These qualities cannot be conferred by king or parliament. The work of the League, then, is to cultivate them within the individual.

A tourist in Ohio asked a native what was the principal product of the state, and the native answered, "Men." May the same be true of Alberta. Let us look hopefully forward to the day when every woman and every man will vote wisely and intelligently, unswayed by jealousy, prejudice or sentiment, and when conventions (or something else just a little better) open to all the electors will only nominate such candidates as are potentially true statesmen, or tried and worthy members of the Non-Partisan League.

—D. H. GALBRAITH,
Vulcan.

Non-Partisan League

TO FARMERS

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truth about the Non-Partisan
League

SPEAKERS:

D. H. GALBRAITH, Vulcan
JAS. WEIR, M.L.A., Nanton
MRS. L. C. MCKINNEY, M.L.A.,
Claresholm
WM. IRVINE, Calgary

Lee Wilson, of Barons, will take
the Chair at 8 o'clock prompt.

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∴ EXPECTATIONS!! ∴



Direct political action is the only method by which the farmers can keep before the government their election promises. Organize! Then, instead of expectation, will come the reforms that are needed. Get together!

MORE PRODUCTION

The great necessity for more production is making itself more evident daily. Those who thought to "Win the War" by sending 100,000 men to France are beginning to see that the food question will in the near future be the only question upon which victory will hinge. However, at the present moment the leading authorities have not got beyond the childish stage of passing resolutions asking farmers to produce more.

It is not only the fate of the Canadian people which hangs in the food-production balance, but that of our Allies in war. No one can deny the gravity of the situation. But why is there no action?

The Non-Partisan in its belief in the fundamental importance of increased production would urge that the Government remove all tariffs from farm implements. We believe that this action would have more direct bearing on next year's crop, than all the resolutions and requests for the farmer to till every possible acre. It is almost beyond belief that our Government will be so short-sighted as to maintain such a restriction to production as the tariff is, in the face of such apparent need.

The next thing to be done is the immediate carrying through of the land settlement scheme for soldiers. There is much waste land, and there are many returned soldiers who want to farm. We understand that there are about 500 in the City of Calgary who know how to farm, who desire to do their bit on the prairie as well as Flanders. Why should these men be held up in their desires? Let these

men be put to farm on the best of Canadian soil. They have fought for it, it is theirs and their children's. Will our Patriotic, Non-Partisan, Union Government continue to allow speculators to keep the soldiers off the land, and to permit manufacturers to fatten on tariff robbery, when they have fixed the price of wheat, and the cause of Democracy depends on the wheat production?

WELCOME!

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What Our Members Say

Short, Snappy Letters for Publication from our Members will be Gladly Received

WHAT JUNKERDOM CAN DO!

Editor Non-Partisan:

Some great American, I think it was P. F. Barnum, made the statement some years ago "that the United States had at that time eighty millions of people, mostly fools."

After considering the results of our last election, particularly in those ridings where farmers were running on the Non-Partisan ticket, I have come to the conclusion that the latter part of Mr. Barnum's statement will also apply to Canada. Of course, I understand very well that well-laid plans of the Win-the-War unionist politician (the smoothest stunt that ever came down the pike) carried lots of people off their feet.

Our friend from Delia expresses it very well in his letter to the Non-Partisans, when he says that this is not the proper time to push the farmers' cause, and that there is "only one thing to do, Win the War, everything else can wait." Undoubtedly, he means well, as do a whole lot of others who think like him, but the trouble with that kind of people is that they can't see what awaits them ahead.

Now, I don't want to be misunderstood on this question, for no one hates German militarism more than I do. Furthermore, I believe that those who voted the Non-Partisan ticket are just as patriotic as the rest, and every member of the League would hate to see Great Britain beaten by Germany in this war. But while Canada is sending men to the trenches and paying her money out to help finance the war in order that German militarism and medieval Junkerdom may be crushed, fighting to see the rights of small nations and democracy established, it is wrong to shut our eyes to the fact that a Canadian Junker class is being created right here in our midst. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," and if we don't look ahead it will not be long before we will be under the heel of the Canadian moneyed aristocracy, and maybe as badly off as the people of Germany.

Since this war started, the party in power, backed by all the big financial interests of the country, have pulled off a few stunts that don't look as though we will progress very fast on the road towards democracy ourselves. And, while it might be wrong to blame all the sins of the Conservative party on the newly elected Union party, I believe we have every reason to believe the worst. The carefully laid plans and the great amount of money spent to win the election came from the great financial interests of the country, and, as a rule, these people never pay out a dollar unless they expect to get two back in return.

Hardly had the smoke of election cleared away before the Railway Commission gave the railroads right to raise the freight rates fifteen per cent. and passenger rates twenty per cent. This is certainly a case of getting the money back with big interest. What does this mean to us farmers of Western Canada? It simply means that for every bushel of wheat we ship to Port Arthur or Fort William we hand over to the railroads between two and three cents, and on every carload of cattle we send to Toronto we give the railroad an extra \$27. How does that strike my friend from Delia?

Now, the C.P.R., who will get the most of this gigantic hand over, have apparently done quite well during the last couple of years. The London Statist, a very reliable paper in that line, states "that the earnings of the C.P.R., since last year, have continued on an upward grade. Its profits for 1916 were \$35,000,000, and for 1917 were \$45,000,000." After allowing the shareholders a ten-per-cent. dividend, there was still \$19,000,000 to be divided somewhere. And, as the C.P.R. are doing no road building, nor making any improvements anywhere, all this extra money will go direct into the pockets of rich shareholders. Now, if anyone is simple-minded enough to think that the Railway Commission has no connection with the Union Government, they have another guess coming. This little after Christmas present to the railroads looks rather out of the way at the very time the American Government have taken control of all the railroads in that country.

But this is only the beginning and our friends, who at this election lost the little balance they possessed before, will have a few more things knocked home before the year is around. But after all, different methods are necessary to get it into some people's heads. Some people will see a thing through an argument, others get it through their stomach, and still others require more drastic measures to have the daylight let in. In the meantime, we shall wait and see.

JOHN GLAMBECK,
Milo, Alberta.

"PUSH ON THE WORK!"

Mr. Editor:—

I notice a couple of members writing in your last issue regarding the result of the election. Though personally much disappointed, and particularly in the result in this Macleod Riding, yet everyone admits we had the best man in the field. Still, many permitted themselves to be influenced by plotting politicians to vote against their own judgment, many of those counted on for support failed at the last moment, owing to a fear of losing their vote, as they expressed it, and enlisted with one of the old parties "to save the country."

Having met the successful candidate before the election, may be one reason that I feel the disappointment so keenly, for one could not fail to be reminded of potters' clay, ready to be molded into any form desired by the bosses.

We must not be discouraged, however, or have any regrets. We did the right and only reasonable thing by staying in the fight to the finish, and though not successful in the contest, I am confident that a candidate of the caliber of ours must have done the organization a lot of good.

The country must know more about the League, and I trust the work will go on harder than ever. No one can foretell the possibilities of the Non-Partisan movement, as yet, and it would be well worth a good long and hard fight to be able to eliminate the profiteer and the party politicians from the national life of Canada.

There will be a large number, it is true, who will cling to the old party ideas

despite everything, but the farmer is now becoming more progressive and is studying the conditions affecting himself. I am confident that a movement similar to the U.F.A. must be carried on for political purposes in order to bring about the remedies we need. It will take time and means persistent effort, but the farmers in Alberta are getting more enlightened as to the value of organization, and as the aims and objects of the League get better known, success is bound to come. Meanwhile, let us push ahead.

—"A CANADIAN."

"THE OLD PARTY HABIT"

Editor, Non-Partisan:—

"F.E.H.", in your last issue seemed to carry a tone of criticism and reproach because the members of the N.P.L. did not all appreciate the value of an independent candidate, and fell back to their old party connection on election day.

But is it not a fact that the Canadian people have had no experience with an organization that can place an independent member at Ottawa. There is confusion in the minds of a great many people upon this matter. They have got the old Party habit of looking to a Leader for plans for the future, and this habit of mind so accustomed to a Party with a leader, prevents them constructing a mental picture of a single member, or group of members, being devoted only to the interests of the common people, the workers and farmers.

Why now waste time and opportunity in complaint. Set to work and educate, educate, educate. Mr. Editor, your clear understanding of the subject and your facile pen could make this a valuable subject for discussion. With an open mind, much can be learnt every day.

—"LITTLE BIZ."

THE YELLOW INVASION

Mr. Editor:

Since you are among the most aggressive in the campaign to prevent the proposed Oriental invasion, I make bold to offer a few suggestions. I have made them before, and have never heard what I think was a real objection.

My suggestion, in short, is that as it is only temporary shortage of labor that is to be relieved, during the war, and that such relief should not remain here after the war, that instead of bringing Orientals (especially Hindoos, who, being British subjects, might object to going away) that we have sent here War Prisoners, and since Germans appear to be such political subjects, that as many Austrians and Hungarians as possible be sent. That they work for one-quarter wages to them, the balance to be given by their employers to the Red Cross or other uplift societies.

Bring a lot of them and turn them loose on the 25,000,000 acres of vacant and unused land around the settled part of the West, owned by the C.P.R., etc. (not away north in the Peace River, or land at the North Pole), and get that land ready for the boys when they come back. You see these prisoners would have to be returned in accordance with peace terms. Then, also, and in addition while they were here, we would not have to grow food and ship it over to them, and have it lost en route by subs. This suggestion strikes me as being A-1, and argument proof and without a flaw.

JOSEPH A. CLARK,
Edmonton, Alta.

LIFE AND WORK

DEMOCRACY IN CANADA

Few words have been used so frequently in the last decade than the term Democracy. Even the most ignorant people have grown to like it, because they think it means something good for them, and the glibbest and most unprincipled politicians use it often in their speeches because people like it. We can get away with anything in the name of Democracy. Disfranchise the people, rob the country, conscript men to die, only say "in the name of democracy" and it goes.

The governments and self-seekers are doing with the sentiment for democracy what the church has done with the Spirit of Christ. It worships the cross, the manger, and the tomb of one "called Christ," while it crucifies the living Christ daily in the hearts of men. The Shadow instead of Reality, Paraphernalia for Spirit and chicanery in place of Democracy are prevalent.

It may be that Democracy has more meanings than one. Certain it is that its meaning in Canadian politics is both pernicious and dangerous. It means government by the majority, no matter how undemocratic a government may be in securing that majority. We have, we are told, a democratic government in Canada to-day, yet that government was returned to power through an election act, the most iniquitous in the history of the American continent.

But the fact has to be faced that the Union Government did get a majority and a substantial majority of those who were allowed to vote; and when subsequent events prove the real aims of the Union, there will be many who will discredit democracy for its blindness in its choice.

Now let the ground be cleared by saying that we are sufficiently democratic to allow the people to vote themselves to oblivion if such should be their desire, but we still maintain that the majority is frequently wrong in the sense that it often acts in a manner which prohibits the attainment of what it really desires ultimately. Beyond this we cannot go. There is no more hope of a crowd being always right, than there is of the individual. Just as the individual through shortsightedness or ignorance will make serious blunders, so will a majority for the same reason.

The principle of Democracy—the public management of all public affairs—will meet with little opposition from any one. But the fitting of people to manage their own affairs is an important question. Democracy presents itself as a problem to be worked out; the first business of democracy is to solve itself, and equip itself for thorough service.

Democracy begins the great work of the new day that is dawning as a little child. Its hand is still in that of its political fathers, it is afraid to walk alone. It does not yet comprehend its great function any more than a child does life. Let one man approach a group of children with a bag of candies, and another man approach the same group with an offer to teach them history. Which will they follow? Undoubtedly they will follow the man with the candies. The children will not care, even if the candies had been stolen, they will eat them. Democracy in Canada is just like that, it follows the candies. But the time is coming when by education this child will learn to weigh issues and discern values, then the politician with the candies will be out of a job.

In education lies the hope of the future. Until every person in a community seeks public office, and every one is fit to fill it, democracy will not have reached its limit. But how shall we get educated? Each school of thought persists in pressing its own view, each teacher emphasizes his own particular doctrine, until a million people see one thing in a thousand ways and few if any see it as it really is.

We are convinced that the answer to this lies in teaching **nothing**. Let every facility be provided for mental development, and all available reformation be supplied, and leave each student to come to his or her own conclusions. This method will lead to a people who think for themselves, instead of a people who follow politicians. Our conclusion then is that victory for democracy is a long way off.

* * *

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

"I believe that any society which desires to found itself on a high standard of integrity of character in its units should organize itself in such a fashion as to make it possible for all men and all women to maintain themselves in reasonable comfort by their industry without selling their affections and their convictions."

—BERNARD SHAW.

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CANADA A NATION

CANADA--AND A LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The establishment of a League of Nations for the maintenance and preservation of peace has become a generally accepted principle by nearly all of the combatant nations. How the League shall be formed, who will be eligible for membership, and the nature of its program, are questions of much popular discussion and controversy.

Mr. R. J. C. Stead, Canadian poet and novelist, in a recent address at the Calgary Forum, under the caption, "The New Federation," dealt with the problem from an imperialist approach, developing the fundamental part the British Empire, and Canada as a section of the British Empire, could play in achieving such a world federation. Following in outline a 1916 Round Table publication by Mr. Lionel Curtis, entitled, "The Problem of the Commonwealth," Mr. Stead first pointed to the undemocratic position of the Dominions in regard to foreign relations, and advocated, as a solution, the formation of a Federal Parliament of the self-governing, autonomous parts of the Empire. This Federal Parliament was to have control of taxation, and of war and peace. Local autonomy was not to be disturbed. Such a Federation of free, democratic States, Mr. Stead believed, could soon be extended to include the whole Anglo-Saxon race, and gradually and ultimately, the whole world could be prevailed upon to come within. —A world federation of free democratic States, evolved through the ministry of the British Empire,—such was the substance of Mr. Stead's dream.

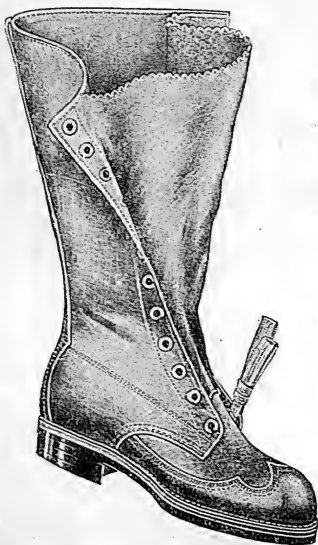
It bears analysis. A League of Nations proceeds upon the idea of equal rights to all nations of the

world. An Empire works upon the principle of special privilege to persons within the Empire, over those without it.

Is there any special attribute in the British Empire to differentiate it from other war made, and war maintained empires, to qualify it to take the initiative for universal peace, or to constitute it the nucleus for a League of Nations? Mr. L. P. Jacks, M.A., LL.D., D.D., editor of the famous Hibbert Journal, in an article in the October number of that quarterly, asks with much point: "On what principle, or by what right, can great nations which themselves have grown great by war, forbid other nations which are now small, to grow great in the same manner?" Mr. Stead's plan is merely that of enlarged empire, seeking by virtue of its privileges and powers, to absorb other nations by war, by social, or by economic pressure, rather than to draw them voluntarily within it.

Such an Anglo-Saxon combination, with its egotistic assumption of privilege and special merit, would tend to allign all other proud and virile nations into combinations against it, and defeat inevitably all plans for the establishment and maintenance of universal peace.

The principles which Canada as a Nation, does and should stand for, are those of equal rights to all nations, and the grouping of nations on the basis of nationality, and of economic necessity. Canada's desires are therefore, not in harmony with those of Empire Imperialists who would build a League of Nations by extending and intensifying the principle of Empire building. Canada stands for a Federation of Nations by consent, and without the stress of direct or indirect military necessity.



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"BETTER THAN 'PEG O' MY
HEART'"

--Stephen Ruthbun,
N.Y. Sun, March 5, 1917.

COMMERCIALIZING THE WAR

IT PAYS TO FIGHT FOR
DEMOCRACY

A STRONG INDICTMENT—*By a Working Woman*

In a letter to the Conference Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives, Amos Pinchot, Chairman of American Committee on War Finance, makes a number of interesting and illuminating statements. I quote a few of them, which are as follows:—

"The condition to which I want to call your attention, is that some of our principal financiers and captains of industry, who have been called by the Government to serve upon the Council of National Defence, are the main offenders in the unpatriotic business of discrediting the war by commercializing it. In close co-operation with the government, in daily conference with our highest executive officers, these men are combining two irreconcilable functions. They are sitting in the morning as foremost patriots, actively directing the mobilization of America's resources, and they are spending their afternoons in taking advantage of the necessity of the people and the Government by making legalized, but none the less destructive, financial raids upon them—raids so profitable as to make us look back, almost with gratitude, at the comparative moderation of American profiteers during the civil war.

"I append a list of some members of the Council of National Defence, who also sit as officers or directors of corporations which are making money out of the war. The corporations mentioned are only a very small minority of the great number of war-profiting concerns, over which these and other gentlemen on the Council of National Defence preside and of which they are, in many instances, the largest owners. Yet the figures which accompany the list show that, in the year 1916 these forty-eight companies, a mere drop in the bucket compared with the total list, netted \$900,000,000 out of the American public, the government and the Allies. This is roughly \$640,000,000 more than the average annual net earnings during the pre-war period of 1911 to 1913. Moreover, these companies have, for the most part, not only made out of the war the gigantic profits appearing in their annual reports (100, 200, 300, 400, and even as high as 1200 per cent. above their normal profits), but they have also paid as they went along for the extensions in their plants that have been constructed since the European war began; thus bringing up their actual earnings to a still higher level."

Mr. Pinchot then goes on to enumerate eight of these corporations, showing their net profits during 1916—and their estimated net profits during 1917. He then summarizes in the following words:—

"In 1917 the excess profits of these same companies, i.e., the 48 previously mentioned, will be as high as \$1,200,000,000. There is every indication that 1917 will be a bumper year, in which America's profiteers, whether on the Council of National Defence or not, will accumulate from the war sums of money that will be unparalleled in financial history.

"I have mentioned only 33 members of the Council of National Defence, and only a few of the war profiteering corporations of which they are officers, directors, and stockholders. Many of them are officers, directors and owners of a dozen or more war profiteering concerns. Now, if the 48 corporations I have mentioned will make \$1,200,000,000 in excess profits in

1917, how much will be made by the total number over which these gentlemen preside?

"The Council of National Defence consists of over 280 men, 170 or more are connected with corporations doing war profiteering business. If the 33 gentlemen I have mentioned represent companies which are making \$1,200,000,000 in war profits this year (1917) what will be the war profits of all the companies in which all the members of the Council of National Defence are represented as officers or directors?

"Again, if 48 companies are making \$1,200,000,000 in war profits this year, how much will all the large profiteering companies in the country make? They certainly will make double what the 48 are making, perhaps three or four times as much. This would be supposing it three times as much (and this is a conservative estimate) \$3,600,000,000, a sum of money a little larger than the total money cost of the whole civil war."

These facts speak for themselves. Behold the patriotism of these great and powerful American corporations. Allow me the privilege of naming a few of them given in Mr. Pinchot's letter:

"The United States Steel Corporation," "Central Leather Co.," "The Republic Iron & Steel Co.," "The Ray Consolidated Copper Co.," "The Chino Copper Co.," "The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Co.," etc., etc. And considerably more than half of the members of the Council of National Defence are connected as officers or directors or owners in such concerns. Do we find these noble patriots handing over their profits to pay for the war while it is being fought?—I quote Mr. Pinchot again:

"They (the profiteers) argue that war taxes on incomes and excess profits must be kept low for the benefit of business. Mr. Otto Kahn says business will skip to Canada if heavily levied in the United States." The following are given as Mr. Kahn's own words:—

"There can be little question that if our income taxation is fixed at unduly and unnecessarily high rates, while Canada has none or only a very moderate income tax, men of enterprise will seek that country and there will be a large outflow to it of capital—a development which cannot be without effect upon our own prosperity, resources and economic power."

Again I quote Mr. Pinchot:—"Mr. Kahn, since the war began, has built himself an enormous Fifth Avenue palace, costing several millions. and, on Long Island, he has constructed for his use, perhaps the most magnificent country place in America, a subject of very just pride to the architect."

These are a few facts for the readers of THE NON-PARTISAN to contemplate.

Once again listen to Mr. Pinchot:—"Suppose one is a wage-earner in the U.S. Steel Corporation. This corporation is netting about \$550,000,000 this year (1917) as against the pre-war average of \$63,500,000. This is an invitation to strike for more pay. If the employees do so, however, they are denounced by the press as undesirable citizens under the influence of the Kaiser's money. The Government and Mr. Gompers descend on the plant at lunch hour, and say:—"Boys, be patriotic, don't strike. We are at war; this is no time for discord. Capital and labor must fight hand in hand. You and your employers must have only one thought till the war is over, and that

thought is to make the world safe for democracy, irrespective of sordid personal gain."

To an outsider, neither in the labor nor capitalist camp, it would seem more helpful to the country if those in authority descended on the directors' meeting instead of on the employees, and said to our Mr. Garys, Mr. Ryans, Mr. DuPonts, and Mr. Armours:—"Boys, be patriotic; don't rob the public. Remember we are at war. This is no time to exploit either your country or your employees. Lower your prices; raise your wages; declare no record dividends. You are dividing class against class by your price and wage policy. You are hurting the war; you are giving it a bad name. Wait till it's over, if you want to make big money. Don't assume that your stockholders are hogs. America has her load to carry now. The people are poor; don't make them poorer; they need food to fight on, to work on. Be patriotic if you want your country to be successful. Play the game like good sports. You were Americans before you were directors. Be Americans now."

Can anyone tell why governments—the American Government, the Canadian Government, are so slow to realize that the piling up of huge fortunes is a serious menace to the well-being of society? Such concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, creates a plutocracy the autocracy of which is as much to be feared as that of Germany against which the war is waged. An autocracy whose power is that of the almighty dollar—A power which has been recognized as the chief instrument of freedom when controlled by the people since the days of King Edward I., in England. When controlled by the few it is equally the destruction of the people. It is more than a half century ago, when the American Civil War was nearing its close that the great Lincoln said:—

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era in corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of this country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until the wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few and this republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war."

What would Lincoln say in regard to the situation at the present time? Were he in the place of President Wilson, what think you would he do?

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A Letter from Home

PATRIOTISM!

A lady recently asked me why I invariably stood when the National Anthem was played. She has given two sons to the Army, one of whom has been wounded; but she will not rise for the National Anthem.

This resentment—for it is resentment on her part—arises out of a misconception. And the misconception itself is due to the wording of our Anthem.

I have myself no aversion to my King and Queen; no hatred and no particular desire to be rid of them. But neither have I any particular regard for them. Figure-heads of the British Empire they are, and as such, perhaps with a certain unconscious amount of respect, I view them. But it seems to me that never at any time were the words of "God Save the King" more inappropriate. So much so, that it would be an act of kindly courtesy and justice if our King would "request" an alteration or substitution. He himself must know full well that, after all, the prayer that rises from the heart of every one of us just now is not one for the welfare of our Royal Family, but for that of Britain's many soldiers. It is to honor "the boys" that I stand when the National Anthem is played.

As to patriotism. What is it anyway? Something wholly indefinable and elusive. Scott writes of "my own, my native land." The bulk of the population of every land does not own a scrap of it; nor does their "native land" provide the many even with the wherewithal to exist. But for all that most people have some sort of sneaking regard for their country, whatever its faults, whatever the hardship it may have caused them to endure.

How many of our fighting men from Canada, Australia, and other colonies had shaken the dust of England from off their feet, vowing never again to set foot upon her shores; never to lift a helping hand should she be in need. Yet when the time came, they also came. The spirit of adventure was perhaps paramount in the hearts of these as in many another. But underneath, almost hidden and almost unconscious, was a certain amount of affection for England. The men and women of every nation have this feeling in greater or lesser degree: the French, the Belgians, the Italians, the Germans, all of whom are fighting for their country.

On the other hand, of course, there is a great deal of utter rot talked about "patriotism." One can have too much of it, too. Ask the men in the trenches to-day whether patriotism and love of country still inspire them. Whether it is patriotism that makes them hold on like grim death in face of the heartrending mud of Flanders. Ask the men who have been on leave for a ten days' "dream" whether patriotism helps them to go back once more. Some will tell you "yes." Most of them, if you get on the confidential side of them, will say "No." They are fed up and they want to come home. But they "stick it"—well, partly because revolution is not in their minds; chiefly because, like the bull-dog, they will not let go. The job is yet unfinished for which they signed on. They will see it through now; but patriotism—be hanged to it.

As a matter of fact the brand of patriotism advertised and belauded in the Press exists no more, though to a certain extent it once did. We folk at home are partly responsible for this. A shy North-country boy who has lost his leg in his country's service spoke to me recently of hospital life. And the tale he told is the kind which again and again the Press advertise and belaud.

He spoke with a glow of pride of the hospital at which he is now quartered. All the service is voluntary. "It's like being at home," he said, and remarked how "jolly good" it was of all these people to do so much. He did not seem to realize how much he himself had done. He did not realize that the State which took his services so readily owed him "jolly good" treatment at the military hospital; and that a hospital dependent on voluntary contributions and work, ought not to be necessary.

Patriotism in the daily Press sense is dead. To fight for one's King and country no longer means what it did. The "boys" will hold on until the end, but when they come home patriotism will have a new meaning for them, and they will see to it that the country they fought for belongs to them in deed and not in word.

And because of their faith and hope and sacrifice, yes, I will continue to rise for the National Anthem even though the words offend my sense of justice and proportion.

—JULIA D.

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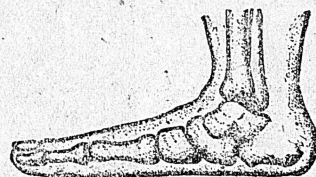
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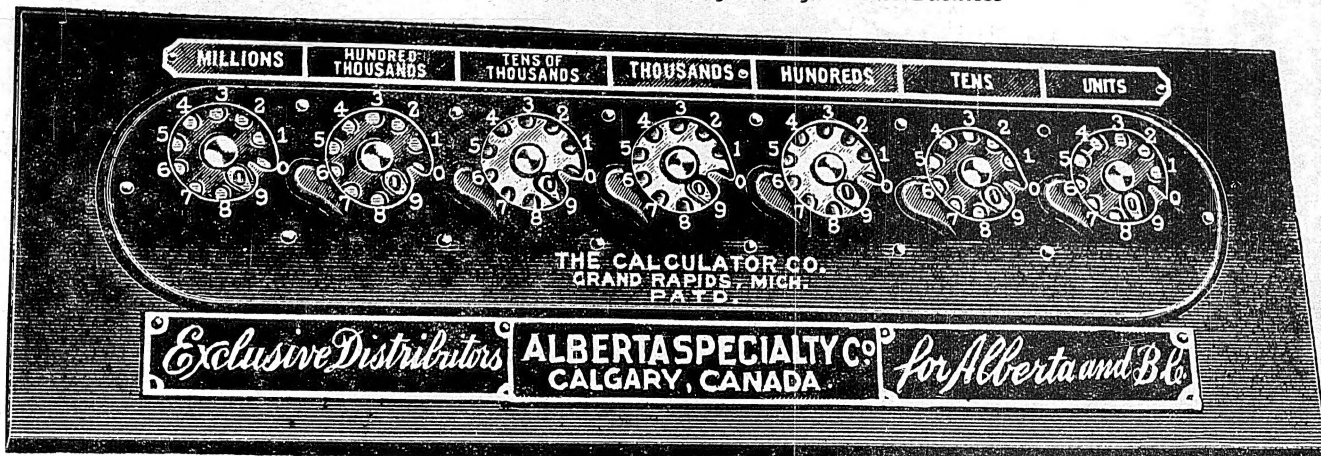


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